

[~114H3970]

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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot grant program to acquire and renovate abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. SCHNEIDER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot grant program to acquire and renovate abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Housing Our Heroes  
5       Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
2                   **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

3           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
5 Veterans Affairs shall commence a pilot grant program  
6 to assess the feasibility and advisability of awarding  
7 grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate aban-  
8 doned homes for homeless veterans.

9           (b) GRANTS.—

10           (1) AWARD.—In carrying out the pilot program  
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall award  
12 grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate  
13 abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

14           (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a sin-  
15 gle grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not ex-  
16 ceed \$1,000,000.

17           (3) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award to an  
18 eligible entity more than one grant under paragraph  
19 (1).

20           (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award  
21 a grant under subsection (b)(1) to any of the following:

22           (1) A veterans service agency.

23           (2) A veterans service organization.

24           (3) Homeless organizations.

25           (4) Any other nongovernmental organization.

26           (d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

1           (1) APPLICATION.—Any eligible entity seeking  
2           a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall submit to the  
3           Secretary an application therefore in such form and  
4           in such manner as the Secretary considers appro-  
5           priate.

6           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may only  
7           award grants under subsection (b)(1) to an eligible  
8           entity that demonstrates, as determined by the Sec-  
9           retary—

10                   (A) a record of financial stability; and

11                   (B) experience in developing housing for  
12           homeless veterans.

13           (3) SELECTION PRIORITY.—

14                   (A) COMMUNITIES WITH GREATEST  
15           NEED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in ac-  
16           cordance with regulations the Secretary shall  
17           prescribe, the Secretary shall give priority in  
18           the awarding of grants under subsection (b)(1)  
19           to eligible entities who serve communities that  
20           the Secretary determines have the greatest need  
21           of homeless services.

22                   (B) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The  
23           Secretary may give priority in the awarding of  
24           grants under subsection (b)(1) to achieve a fair  
25           distribution, as determined by the Secretary,

1 among homeless veterans in different geo-  
2 graphical regions.

3 (C) OTHER AGREEMENTS.—In awarding a  
4 grant under subsection (b)(1) to an eligible en-  
5 tity in a location determined pursuant to sub-  
6 paragraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall  
7 give preference to eligible entities that are en-  
8 tered into an agreement with the Secretary  
9 under section 2041 of title 38, United States  
10 Code.

11 (e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

12 (1) PURPOSES.—A grantee may use amounts of  
13 a grant awarded to the grantee under subsection  
14 (b)(1) to purchase or renovate abandoned homes, in-  
15 cluding homes that have been foreclosed.

16 (2) MAXIMUM PURCHASE AMOUNT.—The Sec-  
17 retary shall establish maximum amounts, based on  
18 geography, for grants awarded under subsection  
19 (b)(1) that may be used for the purchase of a single  
20 home.

21 (3) PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

22 (A) The United States shall not have any  
23 ownership interest in a home that is purchased  
24 by a grantee using amounts of a grant awarded  
25 under subsection (b)(1).

1 (B) Each grantee shall ensure that, begin-  
2 ning one year after the date on which a veteran  
3 begins to reside in a home purchased or ren-  
4 ovated by the grantee using a grant awarded  
5 under subsection (b)(1), the veteran makes  
6 monthly payments to the grantee in an amount  
7 determined appropriate by the grantee that is  
8 not less than 85 percent of the fair market rent  
9 for such home.

10 (C) Each grantee shall determine whether  
11 payments made by a veteran under subpara-  
12 graph (B) shall be treated as rent or as a mort-  
13 gage for the home for which the veteran is mak-  
14 ing such payments. The Secretary, in coordina-  
15 tion with the Secretary of Housing and Urban  
16 Development, shall determine the requirements  
17 for such payments.

18 (D) Each grantee shall pay to the Sec-  
19 retary of Veterans Affairs not less than 80 per-  
20 cent of each payment received under subpara-  
21 graph (B).

22 (E) The Secretary may conduct an audit of  
23 any grantee to ensure that the grantee carries  
24 out this paragraph.

25 (4) VETERANS HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUND.—

1 (A) There is established in the Treasury a  
2 fund to be known as the “Veterans Homeless-  
3 ness Grant Fund” (in this paragraph referred  
4 to as the “Fund”).

5 (B) The Secretary shall deposit into the  
6 Fund the payments collected by the Secretary  
7 under paragraph (3)(D).

8 (C) Amounts deposited into the Fund pur-  
9 suant to subparagraph (B) shall be available to  
10 the Secretary to carry out the pilot program  
11 under subsection (a) without further appropria-  
12 tion. The Secretary may not use such amounts  
13 from the Fund for any other purpose unless  
14 pursuant to a specific provision of law.

15 (f) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
16 pilot program under subsection (a) during the three-year  
17 period beginning on the date of the commencement of the  
18 pilot program.

19 (g) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may consult  
20 with non-governmental entities in developing the pilot pro-  
21 gram under subsection (a).

22 (h) ANNUAL REPORTS.—During each year in which  
23 the Secretary carries out the pilot program under sub-  
24 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-  
25 port that details, with respect to the year covered by the

1 report, the number of grants awarded, the amounts so  
2 awarded, the progress of home purchase and renovation  
3 made by eligible entities using such grants, and the num-  
4 ber of tenants currently paying rent towards such homes.

5 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary a total of  
7 \$25,000,000 to carry out the pilot program under sub-  
8 section (a).

9 (j) HOMELESS VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
10 the term “homeless veteran” means any of the following  
11 veterans:

12 (1) A veteran who is eligible to receive housing,  
13 clinical services, and case management assistance  
14 under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing  
15 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).

16 (2) A veteran who is receiving—

17 (A) assistance from, or is the beneficiary  
18 of a service furnished by, a program that is in  
19 receipt of a grant under section 2011 of title  
20 38, United States Code; or

21 (B) services for which per diem payment is  
22 received under section 2012 of such title.

23 (3) A veteran who is—

1 (A) a beneficiary of the outreach program  
2 carried out under section 2022(e) of such title;  
3 or

4 (B) in receipt of referral or counseling  
5 services from the program carried out under  
6 section 2023 of such title.

7 (4) A veteran who is receiving a service or as-  
8 sistance under section 2031 of such title.

9 (5) A veteran who is residing in therapeutic  
10 housing operated under section 2032 of such title.

11 (6) A veteran who is receiving domiciliary serv-  
12 ices under section 2043 of such title or domiciliary  
13 care under section 1710(b) of such title.

14 (7) A veteran who is receiving supportive serv-  
15 ices under 2044 of such title.